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What is claimed is:

1. A searching system for searching contents
that were broadcast, the searching system having an
inputting unit, a searching unit, and a terminal unit,

5 wherein the inputting unit comprises:

first storing means for storing information
representing at least time at which contents were
broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation;
and

first communicating means for transmitting
the information representing time stored in said
storing means to an external unit,

wherein the searching unit comprises:

second storing means for correlatively
storing information representing contents and broadcast
time thereof; and

searching means for searching information
representing the contents stored in said second storing
means corresponding to the information representing
time, and

20 wherein the terminal unit comprises:

second communicating means for receiving the
information representing time transmitted from the
inputting unit through said first communicating means;

25 third communicating means for transmitting
the information representing time received by said
second communicating means and receiving search results

transmitted from the searching unit; and
first displaying means for displaying the
information representing time received by said second
communicating means and the search results by the
searching unit.

5 2. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

610 3. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

wherein the searching unit transmits the
information representing the contents (referred to as
first contents) that were broadcast at the time
represented by the information representing time and
information representing contents (referred to as
second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those
and as the search results to the terminal unit
corresponding to the information representing time, the
amount of second contents being a multiple of the
amount of the first contents.

20 4. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

25 wherein when a predetermined operation is
performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the
search results obtained by said searching means and
displayed on said first displaying means, the terminal

unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search results is purchasable.

5. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

5 wherein when the information representing time is received by said second communicating means, the transmission of the information representing time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit is virtually displayed.

10 6. The searching system as set forth in
claim 5,

15 wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
second displaying means for displaying entries of information representing time stored in said first storing means, and

20 wherein when the information representing time is received by said second communicating means, the virtual display of said first displaying means of the terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing time displayed on said second displaying means of the inputting unit.

7. The searching system as set forth in
claim 6,

25 wherein when the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on said second displaying means decreases, the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on said

first displaying means increases.

8. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

5 wherein the terminal unit is an information
terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

9. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

wherein the terminal unit is composed of a
personal computer.

10. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

wherein the contents are a musical piece.

11. The searching system as set forth in
claim 10,

15 wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio
data, and

20 wherein when a predetermined operation is
performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the
search results searched by said searching means and
displayed on said first displaying means, audio data
corresponding to a musical piece as the search results
is requested to the searching unit and the audio data
transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by
25 said audio reproducing means.

12. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

wherein the contents are commodity
information.

13. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

5 wherein the searching unit further comprises:
interface means for allowing information
representing the contents stored in said second storing
means and/or broadcast time of the contents to be
changed from an external unit that has been properly
filtered.

10 14. The searching system as set forth in
claim 1,

15 wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
program storing means for storing a control
program that controls the inputting unit, and
wherein the control program is transmitted
from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said
first communicating means and said second communicating
means and stored to said program storing means.

20 15. The searching system as set forth in
claim 14,

25 wherein the control program is transmitted
from the searching unit to the terminal unit by said
third communicating means and then transmitted from the
terminal unit to the inputting unit.

16. The searching system as set forth in
claim 14,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
connecting means for connecting the terminal
unit to a predetermined network, and

5 wherein the control program is transmitted to
the terminal unit through the predetermined network
connected to the terminal unit and then transmitted
from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said
connecting means.

17. The searching system as set forth in
claim 14,

10 wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
reading means for reading data recorded on a
predetermined record medium, and

15 wherein the control program is read from the
record medium by said reading means and transmitted to
said inputting unit.

18. A terminal unit for causing contents
that were broadcast to be searched, comprising:

20 first communicating means for receiving time
information representing predetermined time from an
inputting unit and transmitting the information
representing the predetermined time to an external
unit;

25 second communicating means for transmitting
the information representing the predetermined time
received from said first communicating means to a
searching unit and receiving search results from the

searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a storing means
corresponding to the information representing the
predetermined time, the storing means correlatively
5 storing the information representing the contents and
broadcast time thereof; and

displaying means for displaying the
information representing the predetermined time
received by said first communicating means and the
10 search results of the searching unit.

19. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

20. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein said displaying means displays the
information representing the contents (referred to as
first contents) that were broadcast at the time
represented by the information representing the
predetermined time and information representing
contents (referred to as second contents) that were
broadcast earlier than those and as the search results
corresponding to the information representing the
predetermined time, the amount of second contents being
25 a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

21. The terminal unit as set forth in claim

18,

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said displaying means, the terminal unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search results is purchasable.

22. The terminal unit as set forth in claim

18,

wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from the inputting unit, said displaying means virtually displays the transmission of the information representing the predetermined time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit.

23. The terminal unit as set forth in claim

22,

wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from the inputting unit, the virtual display of said displaying means of the terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on a second displaying means that the inputting unit has.

24. The terminal unit as set forth in claim

23,

wherein when the number of entries of the

5

information representing the predetermined time displayed on said second displaying means decreases, the number of entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on said first displaying means increases.

25. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,

wherein the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

26. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,

wherein the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer.

27. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,

wherein the contents are a musical piece, wherein the terminal unit further comprises: audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

28. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein a control program for controlling the
inputting unit is transmitted to the inputting unit by
said first communicating means.

29. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
28,

wherein the control program is transmitted
from the searching unit to the terminal unit and then
transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting
unit by said second communicating means.

30. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
28, further comprising:

connecting means for connecting the terminal
unit to a predetermined network,

wherein the control program is transmitted
from the predetermined network to the terminal unit and
then transmitted from the terminal unit to the
inputting unit by said connecting means.

31. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
28, further comprising:

reading means for reading data from a
predetermined record medium, and

wherein the control program is read from the
record medium by said reading means and transmitted to
the inputting unit.

32. A terminal unit for causing contents

that were broadcast to be searched, comprising:
first storing means for storing time
information representing predetermined time
corresponding to a predetermined operation;
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communicating means for transmitting the
information representing the predetermined time to a
searching unit and receiving search results from the
searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a second storing
means corresponding to the information representing the
predetermined time, the second storing means
correlatively storing the information representing the
contents and broadcast time thereof; and
displaying means for displaying the
information representing the predetermined time stored
in said first storing means and the search results of
the searching unit.

33. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
32,

20 wherein said displaying means displays the
information representing the contents (referred to as
first contents) that were broadcast at the time
represented by the information representing the
predetermined time and information representing
25 contents (referred to as second contents) that were
broadcast earlier than those and as the search results
corresponding to the information representing the

predetermined time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

34. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,

5 wherein the contents are a musical piece,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio
data, and

10 wherein when a predetermined operation is
performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the
search results searched by said searching means and
displayed on said first displaying means, audio data
corresponding to a musical piece as the search results
is requested to the searching unit and the audio data
transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by
said audio reproducing means.

15 35. A searching unit for searching contents
that were broadcast, comprising:

20 a database for correlatively storing
information representing contents and broadcast time
thereof; and

25 a communication interface for receiving time
information representing predetermined time and
identification information of contents from an external
unit,

wherein the information representing the
contents is searched corresponding to the received time

information representing the predetermined time and the received identification information of the contents.

36. The searching unit as set forth in claim
35,

5 wherein the search results are transmitted to the external unit through said communication interface.

37. A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

10 (a) storing information representing at least time at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation of an inputting unit to a first storing means;

15 (b) transmitting the information representing time stored in the first storing means to an external unit;

(c) causing a searching unit to search information representing contents stored in a second storing means corresponding to the information representing time;

20 (d) receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit at the first communicating step (b);

25 (e) transmitting the information representing time received at the second communicating step (d) and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit;

(f) displaying the information representing

time received at the second communicating step (d); and
(g) displaying the search results of the
searching unit.

38. A searching method for searching
5 contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving timing information representing
predetermined time and identification information of
contents from an external unit;

(b) searching the information representing
10 the contents from a database corresponding to the
received time information representing time and the
received identification information of the contents,
the database correlatively storing the information
representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;
and

15 (c) transmitting search results searched at
the searching step (b) to the external unit.

39. A displaying method for causing a
terminal unit to display search results of contents
20 that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving time information representing
predetermined time from an inputting unit;

(b) transmitting the information representing
the predetermined time to an external unit;

25 (c) transmitting the information representing
the predetermined time received at the first
communicating step (a) to a searching unit, the

searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

5 (d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a) and the search results received at the fourth communicating step (d).

40. A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

20 (c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

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(d) displaying the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) and the search results of the contents received at the second communication step (c).

41. A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

(a) receiving time information representing predetermined time from an inputting unit;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying at least the received search results.

42. A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

- (a) storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;
- (b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;
- (c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and
- (d) displaying at least the search results on the terminal unit.

43. A record medium for recording a control program that causes an inputting unit to input information representing time to a researching unit, the control program causing the inputting unit to perform the steps of:

- (a) storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;
- (b) transmitting the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit; and
- (c) inputting the time information representing the predetermined time to a searching

unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time information representing the predetermined time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

44. The record medium as set forth in claim 43,

wherein the control program causing the inputting unit to further perform the step of:

(d) displaying the number of entries of the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a).

45. A record medium for recording a control program that causes an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal and that inputs information representing time to a searching unit, the control program causing the inputting unit to perform the steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) transmitting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

(c) inputting the information representing time to the searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing

time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

46. The record medium as set forth in claim 5 45, the control program causing the inputting unit to further perform the step of:

(d) displaying the number of entries of the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a).

47. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

a connecting portion for directly connecting the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit; and

20 communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to the external unit through said connecting portion,

wherein the information representing time is input to a searching unit through the external unit, 25 the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which contents were

broadcast, the database correlative storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

48. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
5 47,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about contents.

49. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
10 47,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired contents.

50. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
15 47, further comprising:

junction means having:

a base having an attaching portion for attaching said connecting portion, the attaching portion being disposed on an upper surface of said base; and

20 connecting means, protruding from the attaching portion, for connecting the external unit, wherein said communicating means transmits the count value through said junction means.

51. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
25 50, wherein said junction means has a lid integrally formed with a main body of the inputting unit.

52. The inputting unit as set forth in claim

47, wherein the external unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

53. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

5 a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

10 storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

15 displaying means for displaying the count value stored in said storing means; and

20 communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit,

25 wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

30 54. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

35 wherein the count value is represented with spherical members on one side of said displaying means.

40 55. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 54,

wherein when the count value is transmitted by said communicating means, the number of spherical members gradually decreases on one side of said displaying means, and

5 wherein when part of the spherical members disappears, the other spherical members move to the positions at which the spherical members disappear.

56. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

f=10 wherein said displaying means is formed in an almost square shape, and

15 wherein members representing the count value are arranged in a lattice shape irrespective of the storing order of entries of the information representing time stored in said storing means.

57. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

wherein the count value is represented with rod shaped members.

20 58. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

wherein the count value is represented as the size of an area of said displaying means

25 59. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast

contents.

60. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
53,

5 wherein said communicating means transmits
the count value to an information terminal unit that is
installed as a public unit.

61. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
53,

10 wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

62. An inputting unit for inputting
information representing time, comprising:

15 a counter that operates with a predetermined
clock signal;

storing means for storing a count value of
said counter at predetermined time corresponding to
user's operation;

20 communicating means for transmitting the
count value stored in said storing means to an external
unit; and

sound generating means for generating a sound
corresponding to the count value stored in said storing
means,

25 wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to the information representing time at

which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

63. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
5 62,

wherein said sound generating means generates a sound corresponding to the predetermined operation when the count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value.

64. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
10 62,

wherein said sound generating means generates a sound when the count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value and the predetermined operation is performed.

65. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
15 62,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents.

20 66. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
62,

wherein said communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is
25 installed as a public unit.

67. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
62,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

68. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

5 a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

10 first storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

15 identification information generating means for generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the user's operation;

20 second storing means for storing the identification information generated by said identification information generating means; and

25 communicating means for transmitting the count value and the identification information stored in said first storing means and said second storing means to an external unit,

wherein information representing time and identification information identifying contents are input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

69. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein said first storing means and said
second storing means store the count value and the
identification information to a common memory disposed
in the inputting unit.

70. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein said first storing means and said
second storing means store the count value and the
identification information to discrete memories
disposed in the inputting unit.

71. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68, further comprising:

pressing means composed of at least one
button,

wherein said identification information
generating means detects the pressing manner of the
user against the button and generates the
identification information that varies corresponding to
the pressing manner.

72. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68, further comprising:

displaying means for displaying the count
value stored in said first storing means

wherein said displaying means displays the
count value in a different manner that varies

corresponding to the identification information.

73. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the predetermined time is time at
5 which the user knows his or her desired broadcast
contents.

74. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

10 wherein said communicating means transmits
the count value to an information terminal unit that is
installed as a public unit.

75. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

15 wherein the identification information
identifying the contents is information that identifies
whether the contents are television broadcast contents
or radio broadcast contents.

20 76. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the identification information
identifying the contents is information that identifies
whether the contents were broadcast in a predetermined
area or out of the predetermined area.

25 77. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

78. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:
a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;
5 first storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;
10 communicating means for communicating with an external unit and transmitting the count value stored in said first storing means to an external unit; and
second storing means for storing data transmitted from an external unit through said communicating means,
15 wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.
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25 79. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

80. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78,

wherein the data stored in said second

storing means is the contents or information thereabout.

81. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
78,

5 wherein the data stored in said second
 storing means is compression-encoded audio data, and
 wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
 audio data reproducing means for decoding the
 compression-encoded audio data and reproducing the
 decoded audio data.

10 82. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
 78,

15 wherein the data is encrypted data
 corresponding to a predetermined encrypting method, and
 wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
 decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted
 data.

20 83. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
 78,

25 wherein said first storing means and said
 second storing means store the count value and the data
 to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit.

78,

25 wherein said first storing means and said
 second storing means store the count value and the data
 to discrete memories disposed in the inputting unit.

85. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
78,

wherein the predetermined time is time at
which the user knows his or her desired broadcast
contents.

86. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
78,

wherein said communicating means transmits
the count value to an information terminal unit that is
installed as a public unit.

87. An inputting unit for inputting
information representing time, comprising:

storing means for storing time information
representing predetermined time corresponding to user's
operation;

displaying means for displaying the number of
entries of the time information stored in said storing
means; and

communicating means for transmitting the time
information stored in said storing means to an external
unit,

wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to the time information representing time
at which the contents were broadcast, the database
correlatively storing the information representing the

contents and broadcast time thereof.

88. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
87,

wherein the predetermined time is time at
5 which the user knows his or her desired broadcast
contents.

89. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
87,

wherein said communicating means transmits
10 the count value to an information terminal unit that is
installed as a public unit.

90. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
87,

wherein the information representing the
15 contents includes information about the contents.

91. An inputting unit for inputting
information representing time, comprising:

first storing means for storing time
information representing predetermined time
20 corresponding to user's operation;

communicating means for communicating with an
external unit and transmitting the time information
stored in said first storing means to the external
unit; and

25 second storing means for storing data
transmitted from the external unit through said
communicating means,

wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to the time information representing time
at which the contents were broadcast, the database
correlatively storing the information representing the
contents and broadcast time thereof.

5 92. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
91,

10 wherein the data stored in said second
storing means is the contents or information
thereabout.

15 93. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
91,

20 wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

25 94. An inputting unit for inputting
information representing time, comprising:

20 a counter that operates with a predetermined
clock signal;

25 storing means for storing a count value of
said counter at predetermined time corresponding to
user's operation;

30 sound generating means for generating a
predetermined sound when the count value is stored to
said storing means corresponding to the user's
operation; and

communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

95. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 94,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

96. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) directly connecting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

(c) transmitting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to the external unit connected at the connecting step (b),

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit through the external unit,

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the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

97. The inputting method as set forth in claim 96,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

98. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) displaying the count value stored at the storing step (a); and

(c) communicating the count value stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

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99. The inputting method as set forth in
claim 98,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

5 100. An inputting method for an inputting
unit having a counter that operates with a
predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the
steps of:

10 (a) storing a count value of the counter at
predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

15 (b) transmitting the count value stored at
the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

20 (c) generating a sound corresponding to the
count value stored at the storing step (a),

25 wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to time information representing time at
which the contents were broadcast, the database
correlatively storing the information representing the
contents and broadcast time thereof.

30 101. The inputting method as set forth in
claim 100,

35 wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

40 102. An inputting method for an inputting
unit having a counter that operates with a

predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;
- 5 (b) generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the user's operation;
- (c) storing the identification information generated at the identification information generating step (b);
- 10 (d) transmitting the count value and the identification information stored at the first storing step (a) and the second storing step (c) to an external unit,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

20 103. The inputting method as set forth in claim 102,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

25 104. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the

steps of:

- (a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;
- (b) communicating with an external unit and transmitting the count value stored at the first storing step (a) to the external unit; and
- (c) storing the data transmitted from the external unit at the communicating step (b),

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

105. The inputting method as set forth in claim 104,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.